

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA/KAR
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER
D/HA/ORM:LARTHUR (SUBS)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, HA

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON CASE OF HAITIAN DEPORTEE
JEAN-CLAUDE AUGUSTAVE

REF: (A) STATE 61603; (B) STATE 54578;
(C) PORT AU PRINCE 671

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM CONGRESSMAN
CHARLES RANGEL CONCERNING CASE OF HAITIAN DEPORTEE
JEAN-CLAUDE AUGUSTAVE (REF. A). LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN
RANGEL STATES IN PART: QTE A PRIMARY MOTIVATION FOR
MY INTEREST IN HAITI IS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER
HAITIAN EXILES IN THE UNITED STATES CAN EVER RETURN TO
THEIR HOMELAND WITHOUT RETRIBUTION.

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THIS ISSUE, AS YOU KNOW, IS A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA.
I AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED
MANY TIMES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL SEEKING OUR
ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF HAITIAN REFUGEES CLAIMING POLIT-
ICAL ASYLUM. I HAVE WORKED WITH THE COUNCIL TO ATTEMPT
TO SECURE DUE PROCESS FOR THESE REFUGEES IN DEPORTATION

PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE. I HAVE, HOWEVER, RESISTED EFFORTS TO HAVE ME CALL FOR THE GRANTING OF A BLANKET POLITICAL ASYLUM TO REFUGEES WHO, IN MY EYES, ARE LARGELY MOTIVATED BY ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION.

I HAVE CHALLENGED THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ME WITH PROOF OF THE LEGITIMACY OF THE POLITICAL ASYLUM CLAIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROOF UNTIL I RECEIVED THE ENCLOSED LETTER ALLEGING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A MR. JEAN-CLAUDE AUGUSTAVE, A HAITIAN CITIZEN DEPORTED ON JANUARY 7, 1977, FROM MIAMI, FLORIDA. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD REVIEW THE ENCLOSED LETTER OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENT AND REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION BY AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN HAITI TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN. I BELIEVE THIS MAY SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE SITUATION FACING REFUGEES DEPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND HOPE THAT THE EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ME WITH SOME HARD INFORMATION. UNQTE.

2. WE HAVE ASKED THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FOR THE ADDRESS OF AUGUSTAVE'S FAMILY IN HAITI, BUT HAVE YET TO RECEIVE A REPLY.

3. IN VIEW OF CONGRESSMAN RANGEL'S INTEREST IN THIS CASE, AND IN VIEW OF GOH ASSURANCES CONVEYED BY FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS TO THE AMBASSADOR FEB. 15 THAT HAITIAN DEPORTEES WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO REPRISAL (REF. C), EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH GOH FOR INFORMATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON AUGUSTAVE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, REPATRIATION
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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